Columbia River Temperature TMDL Briefing
6/21/2007

What the TMDL does well:

- Characterizes daily average temperature conditions in the river;
- Clearly shows the differences between site potential temperatures and existing temperatures;
- Clearly shows relative contributions of dams, point sources and tributaries to the temperature problems.
- Allocate loads for point sources.

What the TMDL does not do as well:

- **Allocate loads for dams** – dam allocations are silly and meaningless (eg .001 C increase);
- **Focus attention on the real problems**;
- **Move the process to the next step, implementing improvement to the real problems**.

Possible changes:

- Focus the Dam Load allocations on the Big 5: Coulee and the 4 lower Snake River Dams. (Possibly include Brownlee as well?)
  - Write the other dams out of the TMDL as being too trivial to deal with; or
  - Tier the TMDL. Deal with the big 5 (or 6) now and then re-evaluate.
- Change the dam allocations from temperature increase above site potential to temperature that needs to be attained below the dam.

- Need management assistance to make these changes. There will be grumbling from all sides.

OR WQS:

- At least 3 changes relevant to this TMDL:
  - Salmon spawning – 13.0 C, RM 141.5 – 143.5, Oct 15 start
  - 0.14 C increase changed to 0.3 C;
  - Added "Finally, the seasonal thermal pattern in Columbia and Snake Rivers must reflect the natural seasonal thermal pattern."